

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of claims 1-50 are respectfully requested. Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the telephone interview on November 21, 2005 with the Examiner. Applicants also acknowledge and appreciate the consideration of all the references on the IDS sent with the Office Action.

Claims 1-15, 17-30, 32-47, 49 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. sec. 103(a) applying U.S. Pat. No. 6,188,822 (the '822 patent) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,234,683 (the '683 patent). For patents to be applicable under sec. 103(a), the combination of teachings must, *inter alia*, expressly or inherently, teach, disclose, or otherwise suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention. Additionally, motivation and suggestion to combine the patents must be present.

It is respectfully submitted that the purported modification does not teach, disclose, or otherwise suggest each and every feature of independent claims 1, 18, or 33. Moreover, the amendment of independent claims 1, 18 or 33 or any of their dependent claims, is not an admission that the art of record teaches, discloses, or otherwise suggests the features of the claim.

First, the '683 patent teaches a field repairable hermaphroditic connector for a round cable 160 as shown in Fig. 3. On the other hand, the present invention is directed to figure-eight cable assemblies. For at least this reason, the purported modification fails to teach, disclose, or otherwise suggest each and every feature of claims 1-50. Therefore, a *prima facie* case of obviousness is lacking.

Second, the '683 patent requires that the fiber optic connectors 40,50 (i.e. connector assemblies; See Col 5, ll. 36-41 of the '683 patent) are inserted into first and second connector receiving ports 29,30 of a plug insert 20 as discussed in the

telephone interview. See Figs. 1, 4a, 4b, and 4c of the '683 patent. As illustrated in the '683 patent plug insert 20 is a single component having cantilevered spring latches 24,26 for securing connectors 40,50 in position. Specifically, the '683 patent states the following at Col. 6, ll. 3-29:

Fig. 4A is a perspective view of the plug insert 20. Plug insert 20 includes first and second connector receiving ports 29,30 for receiving fiber optic assemblies 40,50. The first and second connector receiving ports 29,30 include features that depress the cantilevered spring latches 44,54 of the fiber optic assemblies 40,50 and then upon further insertion, the spring latches 44,54 expand in the first and second connector receiving ports 29,30 so as to securely attach the fiber optic assemblies 40,50 to the plug insert 20. The first and second connector receiving ports 29,30 align the ferrules 42,52 of the fiber optic assemblies 40,50 with respective ferrule apertures 28,37. Associated with first ferrule receiving port or aperture 37 is a plug insert extension 23. The second ferrule aperture or port 28 has associated therewith a front seal seat 39(See FIG. 1). A ridge 31 is formed along a portion of a circumference of the plug insert 20. Diametrically opposed to each other are first and second cantilevered spring latches 24,26. The first cantilevered spring latch 24 includes a first nub feature 25 protruding outward. Located on either side of the first nub feature 25 are tool slide surfaces 35,36. The second cantilevered spring 26 is constructed in a similar manner having the nub feature 27 protruding outwards and having tool slide surfaces 33,34. Each of the first and second cantilevered spring latches 24,26 are mounted so as to be depressed inwards towards each other by at least a distance equal to the amount of each nub features' 25,27 outward protruding distance.

On the other hand, claims 1 and 33 recite that the crimp housing has two half-shells that secure a portion of the connector assembly therebetween where the connector assembly includes a ferrule and a connector housing. Regarding claim 18, the crimp housing comprises two half-shells having a curvilinear longitudinal passageway therethrough for routing the at least one

optical waveguide therethrough to the connector assembly and the two half-shells are held together by a crimp band.

Thus, as shown by the objective evidence of the '683 patent, the purported modification patent fails to teach, disclose, or otherwise suggest each and every feature of independent claims 1, 18, or 33 (along with their respective dependent claims). For at least this reason, the withdrawal of the sec. 103(a) rejection of claims 1-15, 17-30, and 32-47, 49, and 50 is warranted and respectfully requested.

Claims 16, 31, and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. sec. 103(a) applying the '822 patent in view of the '683 patent. The purported modification fails to teach, disclose, or otherwise suggest each and every feature of the claims for the reasons stated above with respect to independent claims 1, 18, and 33. For at least this reason, withdrawal of the sec. 103(a) rejection of claims 16, 31, and 48 is warranted and is respectfully requested.

No fees are believed due in connection with this Reply. If any other fees are due in connection with this Reply, please charge any fees, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 19-2167.

Allowance of all pending claims is believed to be warranted and is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is welcomed to telephone the undersigned to discuss the merits of this patent application.

Respectfully submitted,


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